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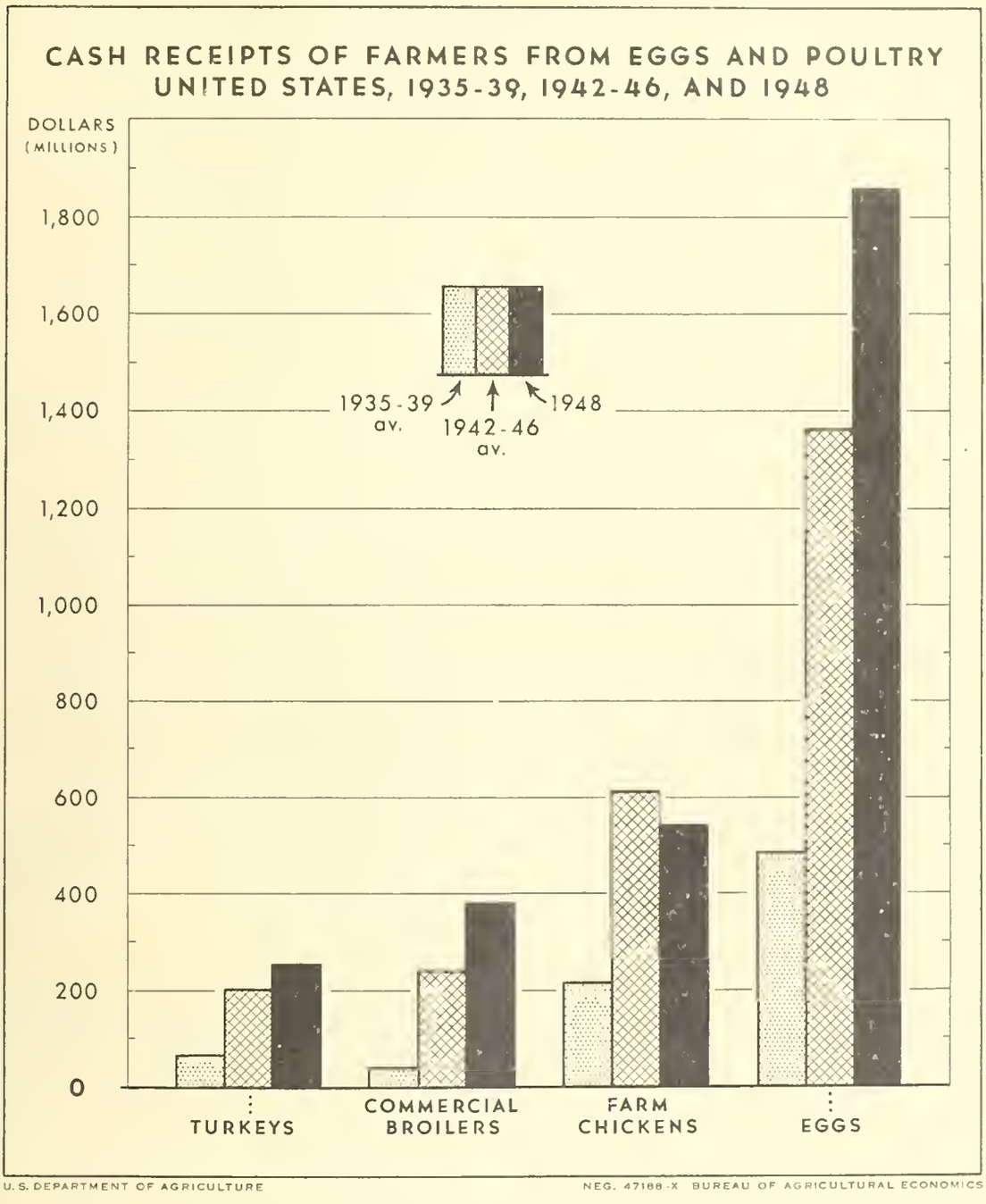
THE Poultry and Egg SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PES-135 BAE APRIL 1949



The high 1948 level of demand raised farmers' combined cash receipts from eggs and poultry to the highest level in history. Record cash receipts from eggs and from broilers, and high receipts from farm chickens and from turkeys, combined to form a total 5 percent higher than the previous record reached the year before. Both eggs and commercial broilers brought larger cash receipts to farmers in 1948 than in any other year, but income from farm chickens was smaller than in several war years when numbers sold were about 50 percent larger than in 1948. Turkeys had brought farmers larger cash receipts in only one year previous to 1948. The average prices of all poultry products, as well as farmers' costs, were at record highs in 1948.

The Poultry and Egg Situation at a Glance

Item	Unit	Month	Average 1938-47	1948	1949	Comments
Eggs						
Farm production	Mil. doz.	Mar.	475.3	506.2	511.4	
Average number of layers on farms	Million	do.	362.9	364.8	357.3	
Rate of lay per hen	Number	do.	15.7	16.6	17.2	3 percent higher than last March.
Apparent civilian per capita disappearance	do.	Feb.	28.0	34.0	33.4	High disappearance for a 28-day month.
Frozen egg production	Mil. lb.	do.	---	25.8	17.0	
Dried egg production	do.	do.	---	1.1	6.8	Current production principally for Government support program.
Prices received by farmers	Ct. per doz.	Mar.	25.9	42.6	41.2	Seasonal decline of 0.6 cents from February.
Prices received by farmers as a percentage of parity	Percent	do.	92	92	88	1 point above last month.
Retail price (BAE)	Ct. per doz.	Feb.	37.6	60.6	57.1	
Egg-feed ratio	Lb. feed	Mar.	10.8	9.2	11.9	Favorable.
Stocks: 1/						
Shell	1,000 cases	do.	1,985	1,165	514	Equal to 1947; otherwise lowest since 1923.
Frozen	do.	do.	2,621	3,820	2,074	Lowest since prewar.
Dried	Mil. lb.	do.	---	11.3	34.9	Largely Government-owned.
Chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries	Million	do.	225.6	214.5	276.5	Approaching seasonal peak.
Chicks placed in 7 broiler areas	do.	do.	---	18.2	27.4	Assures large-volume marketings through June.
Chicks and young chickens on farms 1/	do.	do.	188.2	158.2	209.3	
Farm price of poultry ration	Dollars	do.	2.39	4.65	3.47	200 percent of the March,1940 price.
Poultry						
Prices received by farmers for chickens	Ct. per lb.	Mar.	19.8	27.2	30.4	Broilers are lower than last year, heavy chickens higher.
Prices received by farmers as a percentage of parity	Percent	do.	111	96	109	
Retail price of chickens (BAE)	Ct. per lb.	Feb.	36.8	55.5	56.2	
Prices received by farmers for turkeys	do.	Mar.	23.8	37.0	42.9	Highest price for any month of record previous to August 1948.
Stocks: 1/						
Poultry, excluding turkeys	Mil. lb.	do.	103.7	150.9	65.2	About equal to normal prewar stocks for the month.
Turkeys	do.	do.	44.5	54.8	43.5	Larger than usual prewar.
Chicken-feed ratio	Lb. feed	do.	8.4	5.8	8.8	
Turkey-feed ratio	do.	do.	10.0	8.0	12.4	Highest for March since records were begun.
Receipts of poultry at Central Western Primary Markets, per plant	1,000 lb.	do.	5.7	4.2	8.5	

1/ End of month.

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, April 22, 1949

SUMMARY

Supplies of eggs and of young chickens will continue ample through the summer and probably for the rest of the year. Both hens and turkeys will be seasonally scarce until mid-year and will remain relatively high in price. Eggs are so plentiful as to require continued price support purchases by the Department of Agriculture.

The number of chickens raised by farmers in 1949 promises to be perhaps 15 percent larger than in 1948. This exceeds intentions for a 7 percent increase which were stated in February. The fall and winter laying flock will be larger than last year's, but will increase less than the number of chickens raised. Commercial broiler placements in 7 specialized areas prior to April 1 this year were half-again as large as in the corresponding 1948 period. The 1949 turkey crop may be even larger than 25 percent increase over 1948 which was indicated by farmers' January intentions. These production prospects indicate large supplies, particularly if the favorable feeding ratios induce continued high rates of production.

The prospect for ample egg supplies, coupled with disappointment over the outcome of last year's storage-season, has discouraged large-volume cold storage of both shell and frozen eggs. However, in view of the increase in laying flocks expected after mid-summer, consumer egg supplies should be adequate this fall.

Egg and poultry prices were at record levels during 1948 and the first quarter of 1949. As a result, 1948 cash receipts to farmers from eggs and poultry were the highest ever.

A four-city survey of home food consumption indicates that practically all families use eggs, but that somewhat less than 35 percent of the families used chicken in the week of the survey.

World egg production, making a steady recovery from its low war-time level, was slightly larger in 1948 than the year before. The increased production occurred principally in Western Europe, where some countries have managed to restore or even to exceed prewar chicken numbers.

Second Quarter Marketings of Eggs and Poultry Likely to be Above 1948; Most Prices to Show Little Further Change from Last Year

Total egg production during the second quarter of 1949 is likely to be slightly larger than during the same period of 1948. Increases over a year earlier in the rate of lay probably will not be as great in April and May as the January-March increases. The culling rate in laying flocks is likely to average lower for the first half of the year than in 1948. In the latter half, however, culling may be greater than last year as new pullets begin to replace old hens.

Sales of chickens by farmers during the April-June period are expected to be slightly larger than last year. Most of the increase is likely to come from marketings of early hatched chickens, with some increase in sales of old hens. Sales of turkeys beginning during the second quarter of 1949 are likely to be somewhat larger than last year because the large flock of breeders will move to market.

Marketings of commercial broilers in April, May and June will be about 50 percent larger than last year, judged by January-March chick placements in 7 areas. Total placements for these 7 areas numbered 85 million chicks for the first quarter of the year, 54 percent more than in the same period of 1948. (See table 1.) Broiler marketings during the second and third quarters of the year are likely to meet increasing competition from sales of farm chickens.

Table 1.- Broiler chick placements in seven commercial areas, first quarter, 1948 and 1949

Area	January		February		March		First quarter	
	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Eastern Connecticut	736	1,098	838	1,219	881	1,034	2,455	3,351
Del-Mar-Va.	10,626	14,993	7,770	11,750	8,068	12,005	26,464	38,748
Shenandoah Valley	2,006	2,812	1,875	2,811	2,230	3,263	6,111	8,886
Chatham, N. C.	676	1,788	644	1,602	858	1,672	2,178	5,062
North Georgia	2,944	5,155	2,776	4,179	2,986	4,317	8,706	13,651
N.W. Arkansas	1,634	3,441	1,949	2,588	1,666	2,843	5,249	8,872
Texas	1,214	2,393	1,481	1,762	1,474	2,285	4,169	6,440
Total	19,836	31,680	17,333	25,911	18,163	27,419	55,332	85,010

Egg prices during the second quarter of the year are expected to remain slightly under those of the same period last year. Prices of hens are likely to decline during the next few months. Although these prices are now slightly above a year ago, they probably will fall slightly under prices prevailing in the second quarter of 1948, particularly if meat prices also weaken. Turkey prices will remain above 1948 until the third quarter, when the large turkey crop will move to market. Prices of broilers and fryers, already several cents per pound lower than a year ago, will be under pressure of heavy supply during the next few months and may decline further.

Increased Numbers of Chickens
Raised Indicates Ample Egg,
Chicken Meat Supplies in Fall

Hatchery activity to April 1, 1949 indicates that farmers will exceed their February intentions, which were to raise 7 percent more chickens than in 1948. Chicks hatched to April 1 exceeded the corresponding 1948 hatch by 137 million chicks. This increase is equal to 10.8 percent of the total 1948 hatch. If hatchings during the rest of the year were only equal to the corresponding 1948 output, then the year's total would exceed farmers' February intentions.

Eggs in incubators April 1 were 10 percent over the year before. Orders on hatchery books for delivery in May were 43 percent greater than in 1948. About 88 percent of United States chick output has come from commercial hatcheries in recent years, so hatchery activities so far in 1949 clearly indicate increases beyond farmers' originally-stated intentions.

The fact that the increased hatch has materialized in the first quarter of the year indicates that many 1949 pullets will be added to laying flocks earlier than usual. On April 1, there were 209.3 million chickens of 1949 hatch on farms, against 158.2 million in 1948. This greater number of early chickens will mean that the effect of culling old layers from the present flock will be offset more quickly than usual by the maturity of new pullets. Ordinarily the season's low numbers of layers are recorded on August 1; it is possible that this year the numbers of layers on that date will be only very slightly lower than the month before.

About 38 percent of hatchery output in March was sexed. The preference for such chicks by many commercial poultrymen indicates specialization which is accompanied by increased attention to efficiency in producing meat or eggs. Cross-bred chicks have been common in the broiler industry for a number of years, and together with hybrid chicks which are now becoming popular among egg producers, they show how specialized commercial baby chick production has become.

The continued favorable product-feed ratios may substantially explain why farmers are exceeding earlier intentions on raising chickens. The 0.3 pound seasonal decline in the egg-feed price ratio from 12.2 pounds in February to 11.9 pounds in March, is the same as occurred in 1946, and otherwise is the smallest drop since 1938. At 11.9 the March ratio exceeds the 1936-45 average by 1.3 pounds. The chicken-feed ratio, at 8.6 pounds in March, likewise is considered favorable, and stands 0.2 pounds higher than the ten-year average.

Layers in farm flocks numbered 358 million in March 1949. Although 2 percent fewer than the corresponding number the year before, their rate of lay has made March egg production 3 percent larger than last year. The rate of lay probably will continue through the summer at a level consistent with the present performance. This means that last year's rate will continue to be exceeded at least through the summer.

Few Eggs Put in Commercial Storage

As expected earlier, commercial cold storage holdings of eggs, both shell and frozen, are accumulating at a very slow rate. Combined commercial holdings on April 1 were equivalent to 2.2 million cases, after a net in-movement equivalent to 0.9 million cases in March. The March in-movement this year was below the 1.5 million cases of March 1948, and it left combined commercial holdings on April 1, 1949 at a level only about 63 percent of a year ago.

Reports from 35 cities did not indicate any revival of interest in storage by mid-April; shell and frozen stocks there on April 16 were still each less than half the year before. With October #2 Refrigerator Extras quoted from 48.00 to 48.60 cents as futures in Chicago during the week of April 12, and fresh Extras (70 percent A's) bringing 45.5 to 50.0 cents per dozen during the same week, handlers evidently considered the margin inadequate to cover the costs of storage. In recent years, half of the shell egg accumulations were stored by May 1, while the midpoint of frozen accumulations has often been somewhat later. For both types of eggs, April and May have been the most important into-storage months.

The April 1 commercial cold storage stocks were divided about 1 to 3 between shell and frozen eggs. These proportions are about typical for the date. Last year the proportions were about 1 to 2. The average proportions of the 5 year period 1944-48 were 1 to 4, but they were influenced by private holdings of shell eggs against Government egg-drying contracts.

Government egg holdings in storage were almost exclusively of dried whole egg acquired under the price support program. On April 1, probably more than 90 percent of the 34.9 million pounds of egg powder reported in cold storage were owned by the Department of Agriculture, or were intended for delivery to the Department. These stocks, 23.6 million pounds larger that the year before, will increase during April and May at a faster rate than last year's holdings.

Government Support Purchases

The support program of the Department of Agriculture continues to operate on the basis of dried egg purchases from processors whose paying prices reflect at least 35 cents per dozen to the producer. This program has kept prices for January-March at an average of 87 percent of parity.

Price-support purchase contracts made through April 16 call for the delivery of 35 million pounds of dried whole egg in the months through May. During mid-April, purchases were being made at a weekly rate of about 2 million pounds. The paying price through May is $1.26 per pound f.o.b. midwestern plants.

First Quarter Farm Prices Held Well Above Wartime Average

Farm egg prices during the first quarter of 1949 averaged 2 cents per dozen lower than for the same period last year, but 7.5 cents per dozen above the January-March 1943-47 average. Chickens averaged 3.7 cents per pound above the first quarter of 1948 and 6.1 cents higher than the 5-year average.

Turkeys were 7.6 cents per pound higher for the quarter than last year and 14.1 cents per pound above the 1943-47 average. Prices of eggs have averaged lower in each month of 1949 to date than in 1948, while farm chickens and turkeys were higher.

Despite the fact that layers on farms have been fewer than a year ago, an increased rate of lay resulted in higher egg production during the first quarter of 1949. Egg output was higher than a year earlier by 6 percent in January, 2 percent in February, and 1 percent in March. Marketings of farm chickens in the first quarter of 1949 have been smaller than last year. This is primarily due to the lighter culling of laying flocks because of the more favorable egg-feed price ratio. Chickens other than hens and pullets on farms January 1 numbered 36 million, 2 percent above January 1, 1948. Potential layers on January 1, at 413 million, were down 3 percent.

Turkey marketings in the first quarter of 1949 have been seasonally low. Market supplies were scant. The number of breeder hens on farms January 1, 1949, was 3.7 million, 33 percent above a year ago, and turkeys other than breeder hens totaled 1.8 million, up 7 percent. In early 1948, marketings were heavy as the unfavorable turkey-feed price ratio caused the liquidation of a larger-than-usual proportion of intended breeding flocks.

Table 2.- Prices received by farmers for eggs, chickens and turkeys, United States, January-March 1943-47, 1948 and 1949

Item	January	February	March	Average
Eggs				
1943-47	39.2	34.6	33.9	35.9
1948	48.7	45.0	42.6	45.4
1949	47.1	41.8	41.2	43.4
Farm chickens				
1943-47	23.9	23.9	24.4	24.1
1948	26.3	26.0	27.2	26.5
1949	30.7	29.5	30.4	30.2
Turkeys				
1943-47	31.8	31.2	30.8	31.3
1948	39.0	37.3	37.0	37.8
1949	49.3	44.1	42.9	45.4

Broiler marketings during the first three months of 1949 were substantially larger than a year earlier. Prices were somewhat lower. At Salisbury, Maryland, for example, weekly average prices during the January-March period of 1948 ranged from 28.8 to 36.3 cents per pound. During the first quarter of 1949, prices ranged from 28.0 to 31.6 cents per pound. In terms of chicken meat supply, the increased marketings of broilers almost offset the decrease in current marketings and storage withdrawals of hens and heavy chickens.

Table 3.- Weekly Average Prices Received by Producers for Broilers, Salisbury, Maryland, January-March, 1948 and 1949

Week ending	1948 Price per pound	Week ending	1949 Price per pound
	Cents		Cents
January 3	---	---	---
10	---	January 6	30.3
17	36.3	13	31.6
24	35.1	20	30.6
31	34.1	27	28.9
February 7	---	February 3	29.8
4	30.6	10	29.9
21	28.8	17	28.0
28	29.5	24	28.8
March 6	33.8	March 3	29.4
13	34.4	10	29.6
20	34.6	17	29.8
27	34.7	25	30.4

Cash Receipts a Record, Farm Production High, for Eggs and Poultry, 1948

Farmers' aggregate cash receipts from poultry and eggs in 1948 were a record high. Preliminary estimates 1/ show that cash receipts to farmers from eggs, farm chickens, commercial broilers, and turkeys were $3.1 billion. This total was 9.8 percent of total cash receipts of farmers for 1948, as estimated in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The poultry enterprises were exceeded only by the meat animal and dairy groups as sources of cash receipts. Though these other groups produced larger gross income for farmers in 1948 than did poultry, it probably remains true, as it was at the time of the last census, that more farms receive income from poultry and eggs than from any other category of farm output. Reports to the 1945 census showed that 84 percent of the 5.9 million farms in the United States sold poultry or eggs.

Farm prices for poultry and eggs were likewise record highs for the year. The volume of production, however, was short of recent peak volumes in all categories except commercial broilers. Commercial broiler output of 1,062 million pounds (liveweight) slightly exceeded the 1,044 million pounds produced in 1945.

The aggregate cash receipts of the entire poultry industry was a record in 1948. Two of the major enterprises, eggs and broilers, set individual records. Turkey receipts of 1948, at $269 million, stand ahead of any year since or before, and receipts from farm chickens for the years 1943-47 were substantially ahead of 1948. For all of the years in which gross income of individual poultry enterprises exceeded 1948, the respective volumes of production were much larger than 1948 output. The outstanding aggregate receipts of 1948, then are attributable in greater degree to prices than to volume of production.

1/ "Farm Production, Disposition, Cash Receipts, and Gross Income, Chickens and Eggs, 1947-1948".

"Farm Production, Disposition, Cash Receipts, and Gross Income, Turkeys, 1947-1948".

Poultry production costs were at record levels in 1948. The tables below present data on relationships in 1948 between poultry prices, cash receipts from marketings, feed-price ratios, and per capita civilian consumption. The adverse annual-average product-feed ratios which the tables show for 1948 are largely the result of the very high feed prices which prevailed until late summer. Although feed prices fell and the ratios improved as the 1948 feed crops developed, the fact remains that the initial feed inputs, even for stock marketed late in the year, were made at very high cost levels. Commercial broilers are a possible exception to this, since their entire growing period in specialized producing areas is only about 13 weeks.

Tables 5 to 7 compare the actual and deflated price and value data for eggs, chickens, broilers, and turkeys with the appropriate feeding ratios. The comparisons suggest that important consideration must be given to the level of costs in interpreting the reports of gross income. In addition to the measures of cost, tables 5 to 7 show the annual per capita consumption of the various poultry products. This is offered as a measure of the level of supply in the various years.

Gross farm income from eggs and poultry follows a pattern very similar to cash receipts. The difference between the measures is that gross farm income includes an allowance for the value of farm-consumed produce while cash receipts are the returns from sales only. According to current estimates, in 1948 farm consumption of home-produced eggs amounted to 14 percent of the total farm production, of chickens and broilers, 18 percent, and of turkeys, 2 percent.

The farm output of turkeys and of commercial broilers is considered to comprise virtually the total U. S. production in those categories, but there is a substantial non-farm production of eggs and chickens. The annual non-farm production of eggs and chickens is considered equivalent to 10 percent of the annual farm production.

The total value of farm-produced poultry outside the principal categories discussed above is small. Although there are specialized areas producing other species in importnat numbers - such as Long Island for ducklings — the total U. S. production of ducks and geese is so small that their value is estimated at about 1 percent of the combined value of eggs and of the three principal classes of poultry meat. No annual estimates are made of the value of squabs, guineas, and other miscellaneous fowl.

Though short of previous records, the 1948 outputs of eggs, chickens, and turkeys were at high levels. On the basis of civilian per capita supplies--which adjust for the continuous expansion in population—1948 output was exceeded only during a few of the war years, when poultry and egg production was stimulated to provide for war needs and to compensate for shortages in meat supply. In 1948 the average civilian consumption of 386 eggs left an 84 million dozen surplus for purchase by the Department of Agriculture; the broiler supply in proportion to population was within 3 percent of the record in 1945; the per capita turkey consumption of 3.7 pounds (dressed weight) was exceeded only by the 4.5 pounds recorded for both 1946 and 1947; and chicken consumption (including broilers) was in excess of any prewar year for which records exist.

Table 4.- Cash receipts of farmers for eggs and poultry, United States, 1935-48

Year	Eggs	Farm chickens	Commercial broilers	Turkeys	Total poultry and eggs 1/	Total cash receipts from farming	Total poultry and eggs as a percentage of total cash receipts from farming
	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Percent
1935	502	207	25	52	799	7,659	10.4
1936	481	239	31	62	828	8,654	9.6
1937	517	225	42	63	861	9,217	9.3
1938	485	195	46	66	802	8,168	9.8
1939	437	199	52	71	769	8,684	8.9
1935-39	484	213	39	63	812	8,476	9.6
1940	468	199	72	78	827	9,132	9.1
1941	663	264	103	98	1,141	11,776	9.7
1942	1,017	389	155	145	1,723	16,086	10.7
1943	1,445	696	238	160	2,563	20,131	12.7
1944	1,365	635	227	199	2,448	21,175	11.6
1945	1,500	696	309	245	2,785	22,286	12.5
1946	1,479	639	270	269	2,694	25,636	10.5
1942-46	1,361	611	240	204	2,443	21,063	11.6
1947 2/	1,780	578	284	238	2,913	30,500	9.5
1948 3/	1,857	542	381	255	3,070	31,312	9.8

1/ Includes also ducks, geese, guineas, pigeons, quail, pheasants, and all other.
2/ Revised.
3/ Preliminary.

Table 5.- Eggs: Cash receipts, prices, egg-feed price ratios, gross returns over feed costs, and per capita civilian consumption

Year	Current dollars: Weighted average farm price, per dozen	Current dollars: Cash receipts from egg marketings	Current dollars: Gross returns over feed costs per 100 layers 2/	1910-14 dollars 1/: Weighted average farm price, per dozen	1910-14 dollars 1/: Cash receipts from egg marketings	1910-14 dollars 1/: Gross returns over feed costs per 100 layers 2/	Egg-feed price ratio	Per capita civilian consumption 3/
	Dollars	Mil. dol.	Dollars	Dollars	Mil. dol.	Dollars	Pounds	Eggs
1910-14	.197	326		.197	326			306
1915-19	.301	480		.198	314			294
1920-24	.300	597		.172	343			311
1925-29	.285	690	84.17	.170	412	49.36	13.2	332
1930-34	.173	409	45.26	.127	299	31.79	12.3	311
1935-39	.208	484	72.45	.163	378	55.72	12.3	298
1940	.180	468	62.51	.144	374	48.95	11.5	317
1941	.235	663	127.06	.178	502	94.40	13.5	311
1942	.300	1,017	175.57	.200	678	115.74	14.2	316
1943	.371	1,445	224.84	.229	892	138.79	14.5	346
1944	.325	1,365	150.83	.192	808	89.78	11.5	350
1945	.377	1,500	232.68	.219	872	135.59	13.4	397
1946	.376	1,479	190.65	.195	766	99.76	11.3	374
1947	.453	1,780	240.59	.196	771	105.29	11.1	379
1948 4/	.472	1,857	266.98	.190	746	108.00	11.4	386

1/ Price per dozen and gross value are deflated by the index of prices paid by farmers, including interest and taxes; gross returns over feed costs are deflated by the same index excluding the feed component.
2/ This series was developed in the Poultry Branch of PMA. It is based upon the application of reported U. S. monthly farm prices for eggs and for feed to the reported monthly rates of egg production. The rate of feed consumption on which the computations are based is 5.5 lb. of feed per layer per month for maintenance, and 1.5 lb. additional for each dozen of eggs produced.
3/ Except for the relatively small effects of inventory change (and the effects in recent years of price support operations), consumption is an index of the supplies available after net exports and other competing uses.
4/ Preliminary.

Table 6.- Chickens: Cash receipts, prices, chicken-feed price ratios, and per capita civilian consumption

Year	Farm chickens				Commercial broilers				Chicken-feed price ratio	Per capita civilian consumption 1/
	Current dollars		1910-14 dollars		Current dollars		1910-14 dollars			
	Price per pound	Cash receipts from marketings	Price per pound	Cash receipts from marketings	Price per pound	Cash receipts from marketings	Price per pound	Cash receipts from marketings		
	Cents	Mil. dol.	Cents	Mil. dol.	Cents	Mil. dol.	Cents	Mil. dol.	Pounds	Pounds
1910-14	11.7	128	11.7	128						19.8
1915-19	17.7	200	11.6	131						18.3
1920-24	21.0	272	12.1	157						18.6
1925-29	21.5	340	13.2	205					9.0	20.0
1930-34	13.4	222	9.8	162	2/ 19.3	2/ 19	2/ 15.0	2/ 15	8.7	19.9
1935-39	15.1	215	11.8	168	19.6	39	15.3	31	8.5	17.9
1940	13.2	199	10.6	159	17.3	72	13.8	58	7.8	18.7
1941	15.8	264	12.0	200	18.4	108	13.9	78	8.5	20.5
1942	19.0	389	12.7	259	22.9	155	15.3	103	8.5	23.4
1943	24.5	698	15.1	430	28.6	238	17.7	147	9.1	30.5
1944	24.0	635	14.2	376	28.7	227	17.0	134	8.2	23.8
1945	26.1	696	15.2	405	29.5	309	17.2	180	8.9	28.3
1946	28.0	639	14.5	331	32.6	270	16.9	140	7.7	25.4
1947	26.8	578	11.6	250	32.1	284	13.9	123	6.5	23.6
1948 3/	30.6	542	12.3	218	35.9	381	14.4	153	7.0	23.0

1/ Except for the relatively small effects of inventory change, consumption is an index of the supplies available after net exports and other competing uses.
2/ Annual data for 1934.
3/ Preliminary.

Table 7.- Turkeys: Cash receipts, prices, turkey-feed price ratios, and per capita civilian consumption

Year	Current dollars		1910-14 dollars		Turkey-feed price ratio	Per capita civilian consumption 1/
	Price per pound	Cash receipts from marketings	Price per pound	Cash receipts from marketings		
	Cents	Mil. dol.	Cents	Mil. dol.	Pounds	Pounds
1929	24.3	54	14.6	32		1.7
1930	20.0	46	12.5	29		1.8
1931	19.1	42	13.5	30		1.7
1932	12.7	38	10.2	31		2.1
1933	11.6	36	9.7	30	8.1	2.4
1934	15.1	42	11.7	33	7.2	2.2
1935	20.1	52	15.5	40	8.6	2.1
1936	15.6	62	12.3	49	9.0	2.7
1937	18.1	63	13.6	47	7.2	2.7
1938	17.5	66	13.9	52	10.9	2.7
1939	15.7	71	12.7	57	10.4	3.0
1940	15.4	78	12.3	62	8.4	3.5
1941	19.9	98	15.1	74	9.2	3.5
1942	27.5	145	18.3	97	9.8	3.7
1943	32.6	160	20.1	99	11.1	3.3
1944	34.0	199	20.1	118	10.8	3.3
1945	33.6	245	19.5	142	11.5	4.3
1946	36.2	269	18.8	139	9.7	4.5
1947	36.4	257	15.8	103	7.7	4.5
1948 2/	46.7	255	18.8	102	9.8	3.7

1/ Except for the relatively small effects of inventory change, consumption is an index of the supplies available after net exports and other competing uses.
2/ Preliminary.

Table 8.- Eggs: Farm production disposition, cash receipts and gross income, United States, 1939-48

Year	Hens and pullets on hand Jan. 1	Rate of lay: Per layer on hand Jan. 1 1/	Per layer during year 2/	Eggs produced	Used for farm hatching	Consumed in farm households	Sold	Price per dozen	Cash receipts from sales	Value consumed in farm households	Gross income
	1,000	No.	No.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Cents	1,000 dol.	1,000 dol.	1,000 dol.
1939	376,141	103	134	38,843	513	8,238	30,092	17.4	437,386	113,707	551,0
1940	392,656	101	134	39,695	436	8,035	31,224	18.0	467,620	114,591	582,2
1941	381,315	110	139	41,878	431	7,652	33,795	23.5	663,014	144,247	807,2
1942	427,911	114	142	48,597	432	7,425	40,740	30.0	1,017,358	179,117	1,196,4
1943	488,959	112	142	54,539	479	7,349	46,711	37.1	1,445,291	222,227	1,667,5
1944	523,537	112	146	58,530	364	7,711	50,455	32.5	1,365,083	205,587	1,570,6
1945	473,880	118	151	55,858	364	7,729	47,765	37.7	1,500,136	240,515	1,740,6
1946	474,233	117	155	55,590	275	8,026	47,289	37.5	1,478,733	250,414	1,728,9
1947	435,665	127	158	55,252	240	7,828	47,184	45.3	1,779,576	291,169	2,070,7
1948 3/	426,465	129	162	55,168	217	7,710	47,241	47.2	1,856,730	297,612	2,154,3

1/ Number of eggs produced during the year divided by number of hens and pullets on hand January 1.

2/ Number of eggs produced during the year divided by the average number of hens and pullets of laying age on hand during the year.

3/ Preliminary.

Table 9.-Commercial broiler production and gross income United States, 1939-48

Year	Number produced	Pounds produced	Price per pound	Gross income
	1,000	1,000	Cents	1,000 dol.
1939	105,630	306,272	17.0	52,059
1940	142,762	414,074	17.3	71,729
1941	191,502	559,605	18.4	103,111
1942	228,187	674,087	22.9	154,650
1943	285,293	832,837	28.6	238,262
1944	264,999	790,346	28.7	227,104
1945	345,599	1,044,322	29.5	308,521
1946	275,600	828,607	32.6	270,015
1947	295,333	886,179	32.1	284,285
1948 1/	350,773	1,062,201	35.9	381,117

1/ Preliminary.

Table 10.- Chickens: Farm production, disposition, cash receipts and gross income, United States, 1939-48

Year	Raised 1/	Lost 2/	Produced 3/	Change in inventory 4/: Increase	Change in inventory 4/: Decrease	Consumed in farm households	Sold	Slaughtered	Price per head 5/	Cash receipts from sales	Value consumed in farm households	Gross income
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	Cents	1,000 dol.	1,000 dol.	1,000 dol.
1939	696,655	75,592	621,063	19,697		224,783	376,583	601,366	52.7	198,597	110,490	309,087
1940	633,705	78,142	555,563		15,447	201,164	369,846	571,010	54.1	199,453	92,301	291,736
1941	744,956	80,841	664,115	54,094		197,699	412,322	610,021	64.8	263,772	108,303	372,075
1942	844,276	92,433	751,843	65,112		193,688	493,043	686,731	79.8	388,729	129,116	517,845
1943	1,001,392	87,685	913,707	40,150		190,620	682,937	873,557	102.9	696,214	166,614	862,828
1944	832,063	107,192	724,871		65,700	178,670	611,901	790,571	103.2	634,918	155,474	790,392
1945	914,793	91,341	823,452	13,706		188,331	621,415	809,746	112.2	695,860	182,490	878,350
1946	745,802	92,399	653,403		55,762	183,202	525,963	709,165	120.4	639,348	189,622	828,970
1947 6/	745,401	85,035	660,366		12,891	176,412	496,845	673,257	115.2	577,663	177,718	755,381
1948 7/	637,372	81,032	556,340		12,712	172,355	396,697	569,052	137.7	542,308	194,941	737,249

1/ Does not include young chickens lost.
2/ Loss during the year of chickens on hand January 1.
3/ Chickens sold plus consumed in households of farm producers, and the plus or minus change in inventory.
4/ Change in inventory numbers during the year.
5/ Weighted average of monthly prices per pound received by farmers times average weight of chickens sold.
6/ Revised.
7/ Preliminary.

Table 11 .- Turkeys: Farm production, disposition, cash receipts and gross income, United States, 1939-48

Year	Raised 1/	Lost 2/	Produced 3/	Change in inventory 4/: Increase	Change in inventory 4/: Decrease	Consumed in farm households	Sold	Produced	Consumed in farm households	Sold	Price per pound	Cash receipts	Value consumed in farm households	Gross Income
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	Cents	1,000 dol.	1,000 dol.	1,000 dol.
1939:	33,587	386	33,201	2,083		1,297	29,821					70,715	2,909	73,624
1940:	34,047	475	33,572		1,376	1,170	33,778	505,527	17,140	509,435	15.4	78,245	2,598	80,843
1941:	32,902	405	32,497	292		996	31,209	516,527	15,427	495,502	19.9	98,387	3,021	101,408
1942:	32,805	446	32,359		885	824	32,420	525,899	12,981	527,275	27.5	144,760	3,497	148,257
1943:	32,309	455	31,854	829		747	30,278	516,673	11,664	490,188	32.6	160,044	3,811	163,855
1944:	35,616	446	35,170		226	647	34,749	591,342	10,434	584,599	34.0	198,731	3,564	202,295
1945:	44,221	430	43,791	1,290		711	41,790	762,487	11,898	728,173	33.6	244,975	4,054	249,029
1946:	40,724	433	40,291		1,843	744	41,390	720,177	12,782	742,894	36.2	269,041	4,683	273,724
1947:	34,970	322	34,648		2,200	743	36,105	625,663	12,877	652,768	36.4	237,361	4,689	242,050
1948:	31,950	218	31,732	1 043		753	29,936	578,934	13,040	545,972	46.7	254,718	5,967	260,685

1/ Does not include young turkeys lost.
2/ Loss during the year of turkeys on hand January 1.
3/ Turkeys sold plus consumed in household of farm producers, and the plus or minus change in inventory.
4/ Change in inventory numbers during the year.
5/ Revised.
6/ Preliminary.

Four-City Survey Shows Eggs Used in Practically All Households; Use of Chicken and Turkey Less Widespread

Interviews in upward of 250 households in each of four cities indicate that practically all households use eggs, but that the use of chicken and turkey is less widespread. The reports, covering a sample week's consumption of purchased food in January-March, 1948, were made for Birmingham, Alabama; Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota; San Fransisco, California; and Buffalo, New York. The survey was made by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics with funds provided by the Research and Marketing Act.

Upward of 250 households provided usable schedules in each city. For each city the sample was designed to provide a cross-section of the households in which each of 2 or more people ate 10 or more meals at home in the week preceding the interview.

The survey results indicate that higher-income households used more eggs per person than other households in the same cities. However, all income classes showed about the same small proportion of families who did not buy eggs at all. Neither per capita consumption nor percentage of families using either chicken or turkey (for each of the four cities separately) seemed related to income class.

For all income groups combined, the four cities indicated consumptions between .52 and .57 dozens of eggs per person for the interview week. When allowance is made for eggs consumed in prepared foods and mixes, these figures probably are very close to the national average of somewhat over an egg a day per person.

During the week for which reports were furnished, eggs were used by between 97.6 and 99.3 percent of the families in the northern cities, and 89.1 percent in Birmingham. As already mentioned, income did not seem related to whether or not a family used eggs.

The quantity and distribution of the use of chicken among the households surveyed, likewise was independent of an income pattern. Only 21 to 35 percent of the families in the respective cities reported the use of chicken 1/ during the survey week. These low figures indicate the infrequence with which chicken is served. They are not a measure of how few or how many families use poultry meat, since the servings may be further than one week apart.

During the survey period, which came after the winter holiday season, turkey was served in very few surveyed households. Of the 1,066 families surveyed, only 8, located in two cities, reported the use of turkey in the weeks of their interviews.

1/ Excluding canned or ready cooked.

Table 12.- Eggs: Distribution of use, and per capita consumption in a selected week, January-March 1948, in sample households, by income groups in 4 cities

Income class (1947 income after Federal income tax)	Percentage of households reporting use of eggs				Eggs consumed per capita			
	Birmingham	Minneapolis and St. Paul	San Francisco	Buffalo	Birmingham	Minneapolis and St. Paul	San Francisco	Buffalo
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	No.	No.	No.	No.
All classes	89.1	98.4	97.6	98.8	6.59	6.33	6.86	6.26
0- 999	68.4	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	4.14	(5.76)	(6.58)	(6.94)
1000-1999	92.2				5.63			
2000-2999	91.6	98.5	95.2	98.9	6.91	5.99	6.31	6.00
3000-3999	84.9	100.0	97.7	98.6	6.77	6.22	6.82	6.23
4000-5999	(97.7)	98.3	100.0	100.0	(7.96)	6.49	7.10	6.44
6000 and over		(96.2)	93.8	100.0		6.67	7.56	7.47
Not classified	82.4	90.0	100.0	93.8	5.35	8.39	7.06	5.72

Table 13.-Chicken: Distribution of use, and per capita consumption in a selected week, January-March 1948,in sample household, by income groups in 4 cities

Income class (1947 income after Federal income tax)	Percentage of households reporting use of chicken				Chicken consumed per capita			
	Birmingham	Minneapolis and St. Paul	San Francisco	Buffalo	Birmingham	Minneapolis and St. Paul	San Francisco	Buffalo
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
All classes	34.8	20.6	34.7	31.4	.337	.234	.460	.363
0- 999	26.3	(24.0)	(33.3)	(52.2)	.198	(.341)	(.511)	(.581)
1000-1999	43.1				.441			
2000-2999	31.3	12.3	33.9	29.8	.287	.124	.441	.363
3000-3999	34.0	19.1	40.7	32.4	.310	.201	.501	.379
4000-4999	(38.6)	22.0	29.3	22.7	(.404)	.249	.369	.262
6000 and over		26.9	28.1	14.3		.326	.436	.114
Not classified	29.4	50.0	37.5	37.5	.357	.654	.555	.435

Table 14.-Turkey and prepared chicken: distribution of use in a selected week, January-March 1948, in sample households, by income groups in 4 cities

Income class (1947 after Federal income tax)	Turkey				Canned or cooked chicken			
	Birmingham	Minneapolis and St.Paul	San Francisco	Buffalo	Birmingham	Minneapolis and St.Paul	San Francisco	Buffalo
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All classes	0	0	2.4	0.4	.4	2.0	1.0	0
0- 999			(0)	(0)	0	(4.0)	(0)	
1000-1999					0			
2000-2999			0	1.1	0	1.5	1.6	
3000-3999			1.2	0	0	1.5	0	
4000-5999			5.2	0	(2.3)	1.7	3.4	
6000 and over			3.1	0		3.8	0	
Not classified			6.2	0	0	0	0	

The number and location of the surveyed cities does not permit detailed analysis of regional differences in consumption patterns, but the data suggest two differences between the Birmingham families and those interviewed in the three other cities. Fewer Birmingham households used eggs in the survey week, although those which did must have eaten more eggs per person. This last observation follows from the fact that over-all egg consumption per capita in Birmingham was little different from the other three cities, although the proportion of families using eggs was smaller. The second regional difference is in the use of chicken; particularly in the income group over $4,000, the proportion of Birmingham families eating chicken in the surveyed week was greater than in the other cities. However, this apparent wider use of chicken in Birmingham did not extend to a consideration of pounds per capita; San Franciscans consumed a greater average amount per capita, although evidently a smaller proportion of the people in that city participated in the consumption.

The data from which this discussion is drawn are found in the preliminary reports of the 1948 Food Consumption Surveys, released by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. The material in the preceding tables is taken from the reports for the respective cities.

WORLD EGG PRODUCTION IN 1948, CURRENT CHICKEN NUMBERS

This report was prepared in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. It is reprinted, with slight revisions, from Foreign Crops and Markets 58:12, March 21, 1949

Egg production in the principal producing countries of the world (excluding China and U.S.S.R.) in 1948 was about 1.3 percent above the 1947 level. 1/ Nearly all the increase occurred in western Europe where the recovery in poultry numbers has been rapid, considering the short grain supply from the 1947 harvest. Egg output in Canada dropped in 1948 but in the United States it was maintained at the 1947 level although materially below the peak wartime level.

Chicken numbers at the beginning of 1949 equalled or exceeded prewar numbers in the United Kingdom, France, Sweden and Spain. Satisfactory progress was made in Italy and Belgium. Rebuilding of flocks has been slower in the Netherlands, Norway and to a lesser extent in Denmark. These countries are considerably dependent upon imported grains and feedstuffs.

Much of the increase in egg production and in poultry numbers in Europe reflected increases in the number and size of small flocks. Commercial or specialized poultry flocks increased less because of the limited availability of commercial feeds. Small producers with a few hectares of land found it profitable to convert their home-grown feeds into chickens and eggs. These small producers, including a considerable number of self-suppliers, could meet their delivery quotas at controlled prices, where in effect, and market their surplus on the open market at highly profitable prices.

1/ If the United States were excluded the 1947-48 change in egg production in the rest of the world would have been an increase of 4 percent.

The delivery of eggs by producers and the rationing of supplies to consumers continue in deficit countires such as Austria, Czechoslovakia and Norway. Rationing has been suspended temporarily in the United Kingdom during the current flush producing months. In France, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Belgium controls were previously lifted.

With a somewhat better feed situation since the 1948 harvest, together with a strong demand for eggs and poultry as a palatable food and as a substitute for red meats, the production of poultry and eggs in most European countries will expand in 1949. Supplies of red meats in 1949 and 1950 will still be short and production of eggs and poultry will continue to be profitable.

The rate-of-lay in most European countries has shown some improvement, notwithstanding an unsatisfactory general feed situation. Apparently, producers are finding that their chickens respond well to increases in feed and are directing their feeds to this enterprise, possibly at the expense of other uses. Furthermore, a low capital outlay is required, plus the quick expected returns.

In many of the European countries, steps have been taken to improve the producing qualities of chickens. Improved stock is imported and government breeding stations are maintained to distribute hatching eggs and chicks to producers at reasonable prices. Considerable further improvement in the producing qualities of chickens can be expected in the immediate future. This improvement will not reduce the size of flock to maintain egg consumption per capita, as it will be offset by the increase in the human population in European countries.

Although Denmark was able to export some eggs in the immediate postwar years, the trade in eggs between countires in Europe is only now showing sizable gains. Belgium, Netherlands, Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Eire are beginning to resume their exports.

The farm production of eggs in Canada in 1948 fell to 4.2 billion compared with a peak level of nearly 4.5 billion in 1947. A sharp liquidation of chickens occurred in the fall of 1947 because of short feed supplies and the resulting unfavorable egg-feed price relationship. The 1948 hatch was smaller and the number of layers was 23 percent fewer in December 1948, and 21 percent fewer in January 1949, compared with a year earlier. The reduction in the number of layers was partially offset in December by a higher rate-of-lay but more severe weather in January 1949 than in January 1948 pulled the rate-of-lay down 2 percent. Thus, 1949 was started off with a net egg production of 23 percent below the initial month in 1948.

CHICKENS: Number in specified countries, average 1934-38, annual 1946-1949

Countries	Date applicable	Average 1934-38	1946	1947	1948	1949
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
North America						
Canada	1/ Dec. 1	44,077	51,697	54,728	47,310	40,000
Guatemala		2/ 664	-	-	-	-
Mexico	March	3/ 36,368	-	-	-	-
Newfoundland and Labrador		4/ 387	371	377	-	-
Panama		5/ 195	1,372	1,528	-	-
United States	Jan. 1	408,177	530,203	474,441	461,550	448,838
Cuba	July	-	10,500	10,000	9,000	8,500
Dominican Republic		2,358	1,906	1,900	-	-
Europe						
Albania		2,060	1,800	-	-	-
Austria	1/ Dec. 3	2/ 8,862	5,300	5,400	5,800	5,600
Belgium	1/ Dec. 31	16,500	11,111	13,333	13,500	16,100
Bulgaria	1/ Dec. 31	5/ 11,814	-	-	-	-
Czechoslovakia	May 27	2/ 31,875	-	6/ 10,660	6/ 11,982	6/ 14,978
Denmark	July	2/ 27,643	18,388	19,415	23,816	26,000
Eire	June	15,961	15,263	14,537	-	-
Finland 7/	Sept. 1	2,853	1,171	-	-	-
France 8/	1/ Fall	145,000	-	145,500	-	-
Germany	1/ Dec.	86,624	9/ 39,018	-	-	-
Greece 10/	1/ Nov. 30	11,679	8,200	7,500	8.200	-
Hungary	Feb. 28	5/ 17,880	11/16,000	-	-	-
Italy		76,000	-	12/50,613	-	-
Luxembourg	1/ Dec. 1	2/ 515	275	350	380	433
Netherlands	June	29,632	13/ 3,078	13/ 7,315	-	13/ 9,843
Norway	June 20	5,686	2,926	3,768	4,663	5,500
Poland and Danzig	July	50,000	20,000	-	39,000	-
Portugal	1/ Dec. 31	14/ 5,716	-	-	-	-
Rumania		2/ 31,853	15/10,939	-	-	-
Spain	July 1	16/28,972	17/22,468	-	37,200	33,500
Sweden	Sept. 16	10,980	-	18/12,395	18/13,991	18/15,000
Switzerland	Apr.	5,544	5,043	5,025	-	-
United Kingdom - Farm	June	73,402	60,576	64,880	79,200	91,000
Total	June	-	76,393	81,526	-	-
Yugoslavia	1/ Dec. 31	18,021	-	-	-	-
Asia						
Lebanon	1/ Dec.	-	1,400	1,450	-	-
Palestine		2/ 1,914	-	-	-	-
Syria		1,525	2,029	1,826	1,900	-
Turkey		16,794	18,422	18,514	17,303	-
China		265,765	184,984	204,115	-	-
Japan	July	51,094	19,000	-	-	-
India		-	146,081	-	-	-
Pakistan		-	44,732	-	-	-
Philippine Islands		25,365	9,434	-	23,000	25,000
South America						
Argentina	June	19/42,988	-	-	-	-
Brazil		4/ 59,000	-	-	60,000	-
Chile	June	2/ 1,026	5,000	4,500	3,600	-
Paraguay		-	-	2,000	-	-
Uruguay		19/ 4,814	-	-	-	-
Africa						
Egypt	July	14/26,889	-	-	-	-
French Morocco		2/ 50,000	-	-	-	-
Union of South Africa	Aug	19/14,000	18,600	16,000	-	-
Oceania						
Australia	1/ Dec. 31	15,541	15,000	-	-	-
New Zealand	March	14/ 3,489	-	-	-	-

1/End of year estimates (October to December) included under the following year for comparison. Thus, for Canada, the December 1, 1946 estimate of 51,697 is shown under 1946. 2/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 3/ 1940. 4/ 1938. 5/ 1935. 6/ January 1. 7/ Adult poultry. 8/ Represents chickens raised. 9/ Four zones. 10/ All poultry. 11/ September. 12/ Hens and cocks. 13/ December previous year; hens and pullets. 14/ 1936. 15/ 58 counties instead of 71 as for prewar. 16/ 1939. 17/ April. 18/ June. 19/ 1937.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research, and other information. Data relate to prewar boundaries, unless otherwise noted.

EGGS: Number produced 1/ in specified countries, average 1934-38, annual 1945-48

Countries	Average 1934-38	1945	1946	1947	1948
	Millions	Millions	Millions	Millions	Millions
North America					
Canada	2,638	-	3,883	4,484	4,214
Panama	-	-	-	52	-
United States	35,498	55,858	55,590	55,252	55,168
Cuba	320	324	300	288	276
Dominican Republic	-	-	60	60	-
Europe					
Albania	143	-	-	-	-
Austria	663	336	270	285	350
Belgium	1,693	400	1,100	1,380	1,440
Bulgaria	682	273	-	-	-
Czechoslovakia	1,958	596	776	903	1,110
Denmark	1,979	858	883	995	1,568
Eire	1,086	760	801	733	880
Finland	317	-	93	117	-
France	6,200	-	6,200	6,300	6,100
Germany	6,585	-	-	-	-
Greece	550	332	352	331	-
Hungary	1,050	66	110	-	-
Italy	5,600	2,400	3,600	4,300	4,600
Luxembourg	40	-	-	30	35
Netherlands	1,978	200	385	914	1,000
Norway	369	86	155	198	263
Poland and Danzig	3,500	-	2,276	-	-
Portugal	250	-	-	-	-
Rumania	1,500	-	2/ 532	-	-
Spain	1,700	-	-	1,992	1,800
Sweden	900	970	1,149	1,217	1,335
Switzerland	423	250	300	330	-
United Kingdom-Farm 3/	4/ 3,871	2,090	2,418	2,600	3,000
Total	4/ 5,098	3,409	3,850	4,000	4,300
Yugoslavia	1,000	-	-	-	-
Asia					
Lebanon	-	65	65	-	-
Palestine	108	150	200	-	-
Syria	92	105	120	90	110
Turkey	1,003	851	863	895	-
Japan	3,553	864	936	-	-
Philippine Islands	-	-	-	-	250
South America					
Argentina	1,127	-	-	-	-
Brazil	-	-	-	-	2,160
Chile	-	-	520	460	370
Paraguay	-	-	-	100	-
Uruguay	289	-	358	326	-
Africa					
Egypt	751	-	-	-	-
French Morocco	1,000	-	-	444	-
Union of South Africa	5/	480	-	372	-
Oceania					
Australia 6/	708	1,358	1,470	1,431	1,440
New Zealand	430	-	-	-	-

1/ Relates to farm production in Canada and the United States, but data for many countries not explicit on this point. 2/ 58 counties. 3/ Year ending in May of year indicated. 4/ 3-year average. 5/ Not available. 6/ Commercial production.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research, and other information. Data relate to prewar boundaries, unless otherwise noted.

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In the Eastern Mediterranean countries the demand for eggs and poultry has increased interest in this industry. Feed supplies have been available for some expansion. As indicated by the wholesale receipts at the 7 important consuming centers in the Union of South Africa, egg production and poultry numbers have increased since 1947. Feed supplies have been favorable and the increase in the production of eggs has permitted some exports of eggs to the United Kingdom.

Chicken numbers in Australia on March 31, 1948 were lower because of a shortage of suitable feedstuffs in 1947. Higher current costs of feed and other items used by the industry are tending to reduce the number of chickens and the output of eggs. While the reduction is not expected to be large, information available indicates that Australian egg production may level off slightly below the peak level reached in the 1946-47 season.

Contrary to earlier trade estimates, the 1948 chicken hatch in Argentina was not more than 5 percent above the 1947 hatch, notwithstanding a favorable egg-feed price relationship. Feed prices to poultrymen may be higher in 1949 but the current price of chickens and eggs is the highest ever recorded in Argentina. This indicates a strong consumer demand and exports of eggs and chickens are apt to be small as the world price level of eggs and poultry, in comparison with present Argentine prices, is not favorable to exports.

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